



*"Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on.
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored...."*

~ Kathrina von Schlegel

INDIA: Pastor Acquitted of Anti-Conversion Charges

Source: Morning Star News

In October 2021, Pastor Nandan Singh was gathered with 25 other Christians for an all-night prayer meeting when militant Hindus, primarily from nearby villages, stormed into his home. Accused of converting people to Christianity, Pastor Nandan became the first individual to be charged under Uttarakhand's anti-conversion legislation.

After a four-year legal battle, relating to the accusations against him, the church leader was finally acquitted of all charges on September 17th. However, the prolonged court proceedings placed a significant strain on Pastor Nandan and his family. Financial hardships had often made it difficult for him to travel to court for the hearings. Additionally, the pastor's wife, who was pregnant when the charges were initially laid, suffered the tragic loss of their unborn child due to the stress of the case. Despite these trials, Pastor Nandan has remained steadfast in his faith. "[God] was always faithful and sustained my family's needs," he shares. "This is the result of answered prayers."



Believers in India.

Photo: VOMC

Anti-conversion laws continue to be used as tools of oppression against religious minorities in several Indian states, including Uttarakhand. For previously published reports addressing similar cases of persecution, go to our [country profile](#).

- *Praise God for Pastor Nandan's acquittal after four long years of legal struggle.*
- *Thank the Lord for His sustaining grace which upheld this church leader and his family during times of deep emotional, financial and spiritual hardship.*
- *May these believers continue to experience God's healing and restoration, especially in light of the loss they endured.*
- *Pray for ongoing ministry opportunities to be made available in Uttarakhand, and that Pastor Nandan's testimony of courage and persevering faith will continue to inspire the lives of many others throughout the region and beyond.*

INDONESIA: Protests Forcibly Delay "Holyland" Construction

Sources: International Christian Concern, Radar Solo, Solobalapan.com, Morning Star News

Construction has been ordered to cease on the building of a Christian complex in Karangturi village, despite the fact that all necessary permits had previously been obtained. The order, which was issued on September 2nd by the Regency of Karanganyar, followed formal complaints from Islamic groups that were opposed to the construction project. The letter from the regency cited concerns that the development could lead to "social conflict," and then stated that construction may resume once tensions within the local community are resolved.

The site for the complex is owned by the Surakarta Anugerah Family Foundation. Plans for the project, known as "Holyland," included the building of a church, prayer area and theological school. Opposing officials representing the local government argue that the building plans do not comply with the original permit, which they claim was only granted for a church facility, and not a "religious tourism site." Additional reports on the various difficulties facing our Christian brothers and sisters in Indonesia are available at our [country profile](#).



Pray that Christians in Indonesia will remain faithful.

Photo: VOMC

- *Pray for wisdom and perseverance on behalf of Indonesia's church leaders and their congregations as they navigate the obstacles standing before them due to opposition from local governing officials and other members of the community.*
- *May those opposing the construction of the Christian complex realize the importance of granting religious freedom to all citizens and, as a result, demonstrate mutual respect through peaceful dialogue and a fair resolution.*
- *Intercede for the members of Karangturi village, and those of other communities who are likewise encountering religious tensions, praying that the message of Christ would be a source of harmony and reconciliation.*

REPORT UPDATE

PAKISTAN: Zafar Bhatti Dies Shortly After Acquittal

Sources: Pakistan Christian Post, Release International, British Asian Christian Association, Church in Chains

Zafar Bhatti was imprisoned in July 2012, following accusations that he had sent blasphemous text messages from his cell phone. Over the years, at least 47 separate appeal hearings were held on behalf of the Christian believer. Despite repeated recommendations from prison authorities for his release on medical grounds, Zafar remained in custody. In 2019, he suffered two minor heart attacks, and doctors warned that a third could be fatal. ([View previous reports](#) on Zafar's case.)

On October 2nd, Zafar and his supporters were overjoyed when the Lahore High Court finally overturned his blasphemy conviction after more than a decade of imprisonment. Reunited with his wife, Nawab, the released Christian man was reportedly filled with hope for the future and appeared to be in good spirits and reasonable health. However, only two days later, Zafar's family announced that he died suddenly of a heart attack. His unexpected passing – at a time that was meant



Zafar Bhatti

Photo: Release International

for rejoicing – has sent shockwaves of grief throughout the Christian community in Pakistan.

- *Please remember Zafar's grieving family, friends and fellow believers as they cope with this sudden and heartbreaking loss, praying that the comforting presence of Christ will provide them greatly needed consolation in the midst of their sorrow.*
 - *As Nawab now faces life without her husband after years of separation and suffering, may she continue to experience God's provision – spiritually, emotionally and practically – through the support of the church.*
 - *Prayerfully uphold all Christians in Pakistan who are currently imprisoned for their faith, asking the Lord to protect them and their loved ones, sustain their hope, and ultimately render justice in each of their legal cases.*
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The Voice of the Martyrs Canada · P.O. Box 608 · Streetsville, ON L5M 2C1 · Canada
Tel. (905) 670-9721 - Website: www.vomcanada.com